

RADIO STAMPS
by
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Prepared for the "DX Partyline" Program
Radio Station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador

Program 8

Introduction

Hello, and welcome again to another edition of "Radio Stamps". You're tuned to the monthly program that's all about the fun of collecting postage stamps on the topic of radio. There are dozens of radio subjects you can collect on stamps, including radio stations and amateur radio. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Regular features on this program include descriptions of stamps you can collect from around the world, and discussions of radio subjects on stamps. I also have contests to win radio stamps for your collection.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB. I also hope you'll write to me with your news for the program, and your comments. I'll give you my mailing address here in Almonte at the end of this feature.

Contest Winners

The last time, on program 7, I featured morse code on stamps, including a contest to win a great radio stamp T-shirt. This month the subject is radios on stamps.

Before I start, it's time to announce some contest winners. On program 6, I featured the unique stamp and first day cover for the 50th anniversary in 1989 of Radio Australia. Listeners to this program were invited to enter a contest by writing with the date of issue for this commemorative stamp. All the entries were included in a draw to win the special first day cover. The winner is "lucky" Alan Holder on the Isle of Wight in England. I say lucky because this is the second "Radio Stamps" contest that Alan has won! You may remember that Alan was the winner of the earlier draw for a U.S. first day cover with the 1964 stamp for the American Radio Relay League. That's the same amateur radio stamp that's reproduced on the two T-shirts I'm giving away as contest prizes from the last program. Congratulations Alan on your second win! The Radio Australia first day cover is on its way to you by airmail.

The names of all contributors to the monthly "Radio Stamps" program, and my monthly "Radio Stamps" column in the Messenger, from the Canadian International DX Club, are entered in a draw. The draw is held twice a year to win radio stamps. Each time you

contribute with news, or a stamp for illustration in the column, your name is entered for the next draw. The winner of the first draw in 1990, announced on program 5, was Dan Leyland of New Zealand. The winner of the second draw, held in December, is Don Hosmer of Dearborn, Michigan, in the United States. Congratulations Don, and thanks for your contribution! A selection of radio stamps is on its way to you.

Radio on Stamps

Now let's get back to radios on stamps. The first postage stamp in the world to show a radio receiver was issued by France in December 1938. This semi-postal issue has a denomination of 90 centimes plus a surtax of 25 centimes. This stamp is special in another way too. The surtax was used to help provide radios for the blind. The design of the stamp shows a blind man listening to a radio. The Scott catalogue number for this unique issue is B, as in baker, 79.

Since that historic issue in 1938, at least 60 postage stamps have been issued, by 35 different countries around the world, with illustrations of a wide variety of radios. The radios featured on these postage stamps range from early pioneer equipment with horn speakers, to amateur radio transceivers, and even includes the ghetto blaster of the 1980s. Here's three examples you can look for. Australia issued a stamp on October 21, 1973, for the 50th anniversary of broadcasting in that country. It shows a 1920 radio receiver. Bhutan issued a colourful set of stamps for World Communications year on April 10, 1984. One stamp shows Huey, Louie and Dewey, the famous nephews of Donald Duck, listening to a radio station on their ghetto blaster. The third example is from the Federal Republic of Germany which issued a stamp on July 12, 1979, to commemorate the World Administrative Radio Conference in Geneva. It shows a hand on the tuning dial of a ham transceiver. Here's the Scott catalogue numbers for you: Australia 588, Bhutan 403, and Germany 1295.

This brings me to the end of another program. Your comments and your news for the program are always welcome. As promised, here's my mailing address: Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. The address again is ...

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.